its military establishment. There is no standing army, unless a small corps of officers, acting as instructors in the various recruiting schools may be counted as such. According to the federal constitution "every Swiss is bound to perform military service." At the age of 20 all the young men are examined physically and mentally. Those who pass—and the requirements are by no means difficult—are drafted into the particular branches of the service for which they seem best fitted, and remain in recruiting schools from and remain in recruiting schools from forty-five to eighty days. The unfortunates who cannot pass the physical examinations are obliged to pay an annual tax of exemption, as their contribution to the national defense; those who fail in the rudiments of learning are sent to special achools until they are ready to serve.

antil they are ready to serve.

From the recruiting schools the young soldiers join the active army, called the Elite in French, the Auszug in German—there to remain until 32 years of age. Then they enter the Landwehr, or first reserve, where they remain until 44. The Landsturm, or second reserve, includes all men capable of bearing arms, between the ages of 17 and 50, who are not already in the Auszug or Landwehr.

In case of war Switzerland could place some 475,000 men in the field out of a total population of less than 1,000,000 souls. This is an extraordinary display of military organization, even if it

play of military organization, even if it be granted that more than half of this number would be either untrained boys, or men no longer in their prime and, it must be remembered, the Swiss are as good average shots as the Boers, and are early trained in marksman-

ment fuifils admirably all the requirements of the little republic. It deserves to be called a model militia.

Travelers in the "Playground of Europe" are sometimes at a loss to understand why so large a force should be considered needful, since all the world knows that Switzeraind can have no desire for conquest, and that her perpetual neutrality was guaranteed by the powers at the congress of Vienna in 1815. The truth is, there is a feeling of apprehension that in case of a general European war the powers a feeling of apprehension that in case of a general European war the powers could not resist the temptation of Striking at each other across Swiss soil. The position of Switzerland in the midst of armed Europe would in that event be a particularly precarious one, wedged in as she is between the triple alliance on the one hand and France on the other. It is feared that the situation which existed for awhile at the beginning of this century may repeat

SWITZERLAND'S

MODERN MILITIA.

and Lecourbe, fought there to and fro garlinst Suvaroff and the Austrians, scaling perfecting their army solution of Switzerland all solute prostration of Switzerland and Swetzerland and Swetzerland and Swetzerland and Swetzerland and Swetzerland and Swetzerland. During the Franco-German war a body of 20,000 Swits troops were stationed on the Franco-German war a body of 20,000 Swits troops were stationed on the Franco-German war a body of 20,000 Swits troops were stationed on the Franco-German war a body of 20,000 Swits troops were stationed on the Franco-German war a body of 20,000 Swits troops were stationed on the Franco-German war a body of 20,000 Swits troops were stationed on the wretched army of Bourbaki, have formed a political club and should be presented in the Parliament of Regions at the Columbian exposition. Of Sig, have formed a political club and should be presented in the Parliament of Regions at the Columbian exposition. Of Sig, have formed a political club and should be presented in the Parliament of Regions at the Columbian exposition. Of Sig, have formed a political club and should be presented to their being represented in the Parliament of Regions at the Columbian exposition. Of Sig, have formed a political club and should be presented to be set to a woman, first presented in the Parliament of Regions at the Columbian exposition. Of Sig, have formed a political club and should be presented to be set to a woman, first presented in the Parliament of Regions at the Columbian exposition. Of Sig, have formed a political club and should be supported to their being represented in the Parliament of Regions at the Columbian exposition. The William and parliament of Regions at the Columbian exposition. The William and the Pickerland and Severity of Signal and an artificial club and should be presented to be set to severe a set of the presented to their bea It is Totally Unlike that of Any Other Country.

SWISS ARE VERY PEACEFUL

THE TARE THEY READY FOR WAR IN A NOMENT.

SWISS ARE VERY PEACEFUL

When the wretched army of Bourbakh, when the wretched army of Bourbakh, have begun some excellent forms of the Alaska Gold and brothers objected to their being represented in the Parliament of Review of the St. Gothard and seventy problem. When the war was over.

It is not so long ago, in the summer of 18%, that the so-called Wohlgemula of 18%, the solution of 18% of



bone, or mon he longer in their primoses and are early trained in markenantament and an extraction of the continuous markens and are early trained in markenantament. The decade in continuous markens are the value of the continuous markens and are carly trained in markens and are carly trained and are carly

CECIL RHODES' AMERICAN IDEAS.

He differs from American statesmen in having the imperial idea superimposed upon the democratic foundation, but the political foundation of his system is American rather than English. That is to say, he is a federalist, and he would apply the principles of the American constitution with uncompromising the feathers are continually irropoling off. numerous others for the nonemona street of the serious of the serious others for the nonemona with the first constitution with uncompromising distributions of the serious of the serious of the subject of an appropriate as an appropriate as the serious of the se

THE MIDGES

land to live in on the face of the earth, and the unanimous opinion of those who know what they are Laking about is that the man who goes there without an abundant supply of health and cash will probably stay there for all eternity.

cash will probably stay there for all eternity.

Many men, lured by the wonderful tales of gold, have doubtless decided to join the miners of Alaska. For their benefit a few facts concerning the country will be given, so that they will know what to expect. From a climatic standpoint Alaska is casily entitled to the blue ribbon for having the meanest in creation. In winter time the average temperature is 60 degrees below zero, while in summer it jumps as high as 100 degrees above. This is almost a clean leap from the north pole to the equator.

The rich placer mines on the Yukon river, which have given rise to all the gilttering stories, are not easily reached. The "Forty-niners" who crossed the continent in prairie schooners in the early California days had a pleasant saunter compared with the hardships of the journey to the Yukon. This latter trip is only a triffe more than 100 miles, but it means more concentrated misery than the imagination of most people can picture.

misery than the imagination of most people can picture. From Sitks the gold diggers must

From Sitks the gold diggers must travel by wagon or on foot a hundred miles or so over the divide, where they must hew trees and build rafts on which to descend until they are about twenty-five miles to the west of the boundary line between British America and the United States. Here gre the small creeks and streams where the gold is found.

SWARMS OF INSECTS.

To make the trip in winter is next to impossible for any one not accustomed to living in the most intense cold, and to make it in the summer time is torture because of the swarms of every variety of insect which infest the river country. Volumes could be written about these insects. It may seem trivial to attach any inportance to them, but when it is said that more than one miner has lost his mind on account of the peet, some idea of their torturing power can be gained.

On the subject of these insects an expert sent out by the Washington authorities reported: "When the waters of the river come down in the spring the mosquitos, by far the most annoying of the insects, come along in swarms. Gloves are worn at all times, and the faces of the miners were cov-To make the trip in winter is next

swarms. Gloves are worn at all times, and the faces of the miners were covered, but even then the mosquitos would get to the flesh, crawling up the wristbands of their gauntlets and down their legs into their boots, nutil the miners almost lost their senses from the continued battle with their small poisonous foes."

An Alaskan costume consists of a fur parki and a pair of long boots. The parki is a long, loose garment, made of skins. It is provided with a capacious hood, which is gound along the edge with a strip of the longest fur which they can obtain, that of the wolf being the most desirable. When

be easily mistaken for a small hillock. The only light and ventilation is by a little opening at the top which is protected by a curtain made of fish skin. The internal arrangement varies in different places in respect to details

THE MIDGES

tected by a curtain made of fish skin. The internal arrangement varies in different places in respect to details, but the main features are the same, Around three sides of the interior a bank, of earth is left, which extends like a broad step or divan. On this the natives sit in their customary squarting position.

Some casinos have a second and narrower divan, extending from the wall above the other. On extraordinary occasions a third one is added. This is formed of three little flat sleds called kamegatek. A line of these kamegateks suspended from the roof by skin ropes will extend all around the easino. Thus space is economized and a large number of persons accommodated. On the fourth side of the casino the main divan extends only a short distance from the corners, leaving free the middle portion where the entrance is stanted. In the center of the floor is a large, square pit, covered with loga. In this pit a large fire is built.

A PECULIAR ENTRANCE.

A PECULIAR ENTRANCE.

Indications point toward a big rush of gold hunters for Alaska when the warm weather sets in. The fact that it is the new land of gold will attract hundreds and thousands of adventurous spirits, and every one of them will expect to become a bonanza king.

All the experts who have visited Alaska say that there are tons of gold there. Some say that it is the richest gold country the world has ever known, but all agree that it is the toughest land to live in on the face of the carth, and the unanimous opinion of those who know what they are talking about its that the man who sees there with-

remains between this exit and the fire pit is the sink.

Crawling along in the dark, alippery tunnel is not a graceful proceeding and this bobbling up from the hole is decidedly an abrupt manner of making one's appearance in society. The departure is fully as ludierous. The soft boots and fur clothing make no rusting, and you behold the inmarts disappear instantly and silently through the floor, after the fashion of imps in pantomime. The interior of the casino is always gloomy; the sides and roof are blackened with smoke and covered thickly with soot.

THE NATIVE HOUSE.

THE NATIVE HOUSE.

THE NATIVE HOUSE.

The women and children seldom visit the casino, for the reason that the first thing a man does on entering is to remove his clothing, hang it un near the fire, where it gets a kind of vapor bath, and while it is drying he reclines on one of the divans. The odor in this place would kill the average citizen of the United States quicker than the electrical death chair.

The barraboras, or private houses, are constructed on the same general plan as the casino. They are somewhat smaller, and have only one very broad divan around; as they are never used for the vapor bath, they are without the fire hole. Several families generally occupy the same barrabora. Sections of the divan are alloted to each, and these are frequently curtained off by large straw mats called tupigak. These strips of straw carpet are beautifully woven by the women, and resemble the matting commonly used in the United States.

Minips for gold in Alaska is not the

States.

Mining for gold in Alaska is not the easiest thing in the world. The country is almost burren of machinery, owing to the difficulties of transportation. The miners, during the winter light large fires over the surface that they desire to dig and thaw out the ground to a certain extent in this way. They then remove the earth until they get then remove the earth until they get down to the frozen ground again, and then the build another fire, and so on. When the spring freshets come they have water enough to wash out the loose, auriferous earth they have obtained in this arduous way.

RONTGEN'S X RAYS.

Following close upon the discovery of the new elements "argon" and "he lium" comes that of a new "light."

Following close upon the discoverying of the insects, come along in
swarms. Gloves are worn at all times,
and the faces of the miners were covered, but even then the mosquitos
would get to the fiesh, crawing up the
wristbands of their gauntlets and
down their legs into their boots, until
the miners almost lost their senses
from the continued battle with their
small poisoneus foes."

A NIGHT AND DAY WAR.4.

From one end of the warm season to
another there is no let up by the insects. Indors and outdoors, in daytime
and night, it is the same. Clouds of
midges penetrate verywhere, and ordinary neiting is perfectly useless as a
safeguard for these insects pass
through the meshes without difficulty.
Out of doors one is completely at their
merey. They fly into the eyes and
lodge under the lids: they cluster in
the ears, crawl up the arms and down
the neck; in fact, omit no chance of
causing intense annoyance. Jersey
mosquitos. Adirondack gnats and
South Atlantic coast sandfiles must
yield the palm to Yukon midges and
mosquitos.

But for these insects life in Alaska
in summer time would be bearable. In
winter time, of course, the intense and
lasting cold is the great drawback.
Even the native can scarcely stand
it. They are probably the diritest race
of beings on earth. In their dress, habdiation and diet they are utterly filthy.
There is nothing too foul for them to
eat. They are probably the diritest race
of beings on earth. In their dress, habdiation and diet they are utterly filthy.
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eat. They are probably the diritest race
of beings on earth. In their dress, habdiation and diet they are utterly filthy.
There is nothing too foul for them to
eat. They are always covered with
diet and vermin, and their houses are
truly like pig siyes. None of them can
approach you unawares, as you
are sure to small them fro short, they are not eathode rays, as usually known, but are produced from them at the spot where they implinge on the glass walls of the charged tube.—Prom "Rontgen's X Rays," in the March Review of Reviews.

CANADA AND THE EMPIRE. There can be little doubt but the

past year in Canadian affairs has wit-The position of Switzerland in the midst of armed Europe would in that event be a particularly precarious one, wedged in as she is between the triple alliance on the other. It is feared that the situation which existed for awhile at the beginning of this century may repeat itself, when Switzerland virtually becomes the batileground of Europe, and the armies of Napoleon, under Massena the same short disfance it can best be described as a membership of six hundred for fough logs, covered thickly will be complete this state from Populist rule, believed the state from Populist rule, believed this state from Populist rule, believed this state from Populist rule, believed the which the special population of the day by day, he adventores a little toward thouse in which they meet for various and the state from Population of the day by day, he adventores of Affine fro



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